Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010079U\$1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

യയയയയയയയയയയ

RECEIVED

In re Application of:

Bates et al.

Serial No.: 09/848,572

Confirmation No.: 6826

Filed:

May 3, 2001

For:

Systems and Methods for **Operating Vending Machines**

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Group Art Unit: 3627

NOV 2 4 2004

Examiner:

Laneau, Ronald

CERTIFICATE OF FAX 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 703/872-9306 to the attention of Examiner Larlead on the date

November 24, 2004 Gero G. McClellan

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUING EXAMINATION

Please enter this amendment and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

The Claims are listed beginning on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.